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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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ONI review(s) completed.

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SUMMARY

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FAR EAST

2. Comment on air incidents in the Formosa Straits (page 3).

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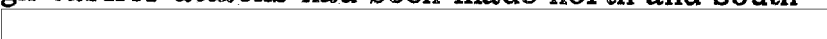
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FAR EAST


2. Comment on air incidents in the Formosa Straits:

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 The two Chinese Communist air attacks on Nationalist aircraft near the Matsu Islands on 27 June were the first Communist attempts to intercept Nationalist planes in the Formosa Straits, although earlier attacks had been made north and south of the straits. 

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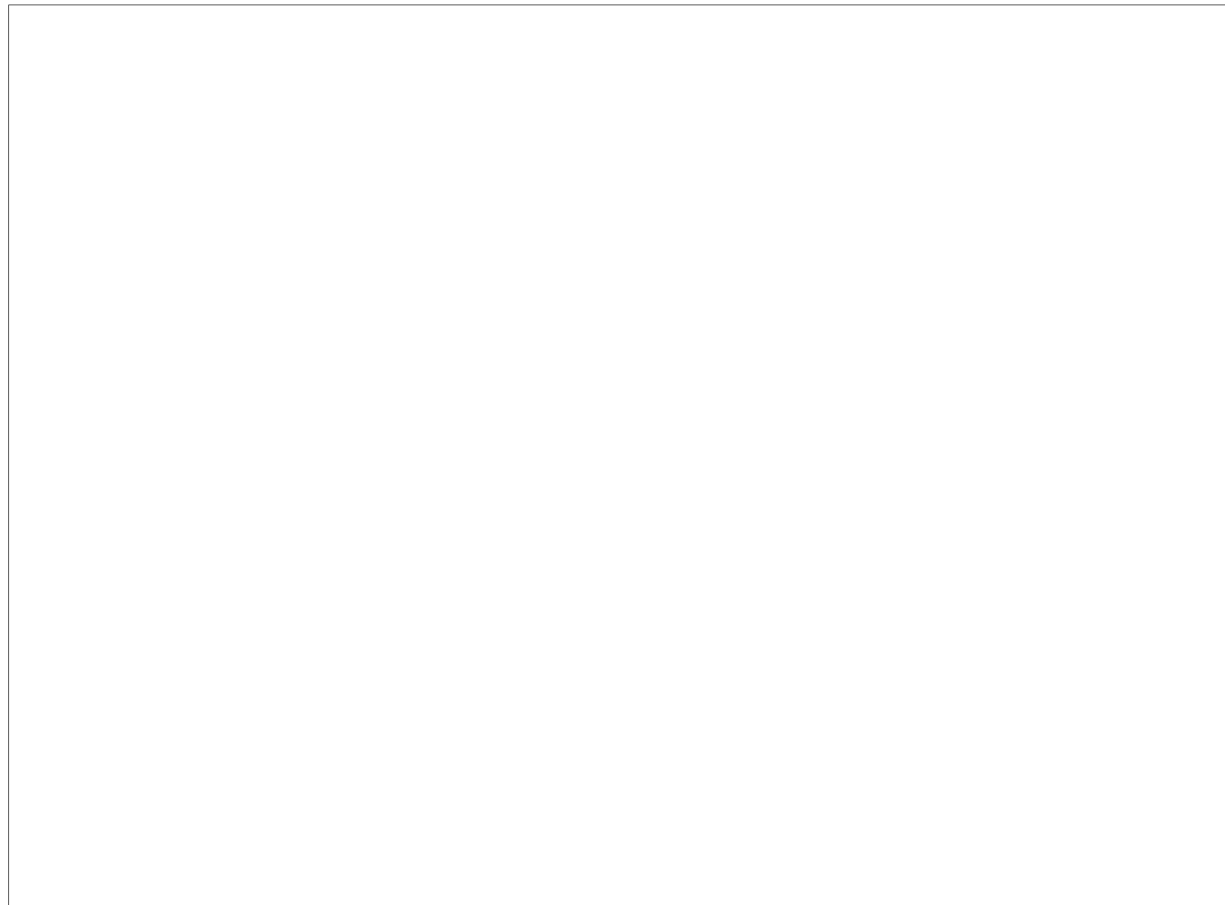

Peiping can be expected to justify the attacks in terms of defensive action. Nationalist aircraft had

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attacked Communist naval targets along the coast the day before, and on 25 June Peiping had broadcast a detailed account of Nationalist military "harassment" against the mainland during June.

Further incidents of this type appear highly probable as the Communists improve their proficiency in fighter operations and as additional fighter bases are completed in the coastal area. Peiping may welcome opportunities to take such action at this time, in order to maintain tension in the area and keep some degree of pressure on the United States to enter into negotiations.

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